EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.　　An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

　　　Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Anthony J. Lombardi on April 21, 2011.

In the Claims:

　　　This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

1.　　(Currently Amended)　　　A computer-implemented method of planning demand

for a configurable product having at least one product dependent characteristic and one

product independent characteristic in a managed supply chain, comprising:

providing a data storage system to store data with respect to a plurality of product

　　　independent characteristics and product dependent characteristics;

receiving, by a processor, a selection of at least one product to be represented;

receiving, by the processor, a selection of a particular characteristic to be represented;

receiving, by the processor, a planning parameter with respect to the selection of a

　　　particular characteristic or product;

loading, by the processor, data from the data storage system into a buffer;

performing, by the processor, a calculation on the data with respect to the product
    dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics;

modelling, by the processor, a hierarchy of the represented data, wherein the hierarchy
    is defined in accordance with the planning parameter; and

using the hierarchy to administer the buffered data, the administration of the buffered
    data comprising performing a propagating recalculation of a change in the data
    through the data storage system, wherein the recalculation differs from that
    defined by the planning parameter and includes calculating an incidence of each
    product dependent characteristic and each product independent characteristic in
    accordance with the selected product.

2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
storing the recalculated data in the data storage system.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 3, further comprising:
loading the recalculated data into the data storage system.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the
    calculation is a disaggregation calculation.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the
    recalculation is a disaggregation or an aggregation calculation.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the data
        storage system is an object oriented data base.

8.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the
        modelling step includes modelling the hierarchy with respect to the product
        dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics.

9.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the
        calculating step is carried out by the data storage system.

10.   (Cancelled).

11.   (Currently Amended)   A demand planner apparatus for planning demand for
        a configurable product in a managed supply chain, ~~wherein said demand planner
        is operatively associated with a data storage system to store data with respect to
        a plurality of product independent characteristics and product dependent
        characteristics, and wherein said demand planner is operatively associated with
        a user interface for receiving input of the selection of at least one product to be
        represented, input of the selection of a particular characteristic to be represented,
        and input of a planning parameter with respect to the selection of a particular
        characteristic or product~~, said demand planner apparatus comprising:

a storage medium storing processor readable code to plan demand for a configurable
        product in a managed supply chain, said code comprising:

data loading code to load data from [[the]] a data storage system into a buffer,

calculation performing code to perform a calculation on the data with respect to [[the]]
        product dependent characteristics and [[the]] product independent
        characteristics, and

hierarchy modelling code to model a hierarchy of the data, wherein the hierarchy is
defined in accordance with [[the]] a planning parameter, wherein the hierarchy is
used to administer the buffered data, and the administration of the buffered data
comprises performing a propagating recalculation of a change in the data
through the data storage system, the recalculation differing from that defined by
the planning parameter and including calculating an incidence of each product
dependent characteristic and each product independent characteristic in
accordance with the selected product, and

wherein the demand planner is operatively associated with the data storage system to
store data with respect to the product independent characteristics and the
product dependent characteristics, and wherein the demand planner is
operatively associated with a user interface for receiving input of a selection of at
least one product to be represented, input of a selection of a particular
characteristic to be represented, and input of the planning parameter with respect
to the selection of a particular characteristic or product.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The demand planner apparatus according to claim 11,
wherein administering the buffered data includes performing a propagating
recalculation of a change in the data through the data storage system, where the
calculation differs from that defined by the planning parameter.

13 - 14.   (Canceled).

15.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable medium storing program
instructions executable by a processor to perform a method of planning demand
for a configurable product having at least one product dependent characteristic
and one product independent characteristic in a managed supply chain, the
method comprising:

providing a data storage system to store data with respect to a plurality of product
    independent characteristics and product dependent characteristics;

receiving a selection of at least one product to be represented;

receiving a selection of a particular characteristic to be represented;

receiving a planning parameter with respect to the selection of a particular characteristic
    or product;

loading data from the data storage system into a buffer;

performing a calculation on the data with respect to the product dependent
    characteristics and the product independent characteristics;

modeling a hierarchy of the represented data, wherein the hierarchy is defined in
    accordance with the planning parameter; and

using the hierarchy to administer the buffered data, the administration of the buffered
    data comprising performing a propagating recalculation of a change in the data
    through the data storage system, wherein the recalculation differs from that
    defined by the planning parameter and includes calculating an incidence of each
    product dependent characteristic and each product independent characteristic in
    accordance with the selected product.

Allowable Subject Matter

2.   Claims 1, 3-9, 11-12 and 15 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3.   The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable

subject matter: The closest prior art is Gung et al (US 6,816,839). Gung et al

disclose a method for demand planning of products comprising constructing a

configure-to-order operation/multiple building block environment; and forecasting

the demand of the building blocks within this environment for establishing an

efficient supply chain management. However, Gung et al fail to teach performing

a calculation on the data with respect to the product dependent characteristics

and the product dependent characteristics, and modeling a hierarchy of the

represented data, wherein the hierarchy is defined in accordance with planning

parameter, as recited in independent claims 1 and 10.

Conclusion

4.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

        a. Kaneko et al (US 20010020230) discloses a demand-supply scheme

planning apparatus for planning a demand-supply scheme in a supply chain in

which at least two demand-supply steps having receipt of order, placement of

order, purchase, and supply of a merchandise, are connected.

        b. Venkatasubramanyan et al (US Patent No. 7,672,862) discloses a

method for generating a supply chain plan including accessing data describing a

supply chain network having buffers. Each buffer is operable to store items or

products and is associated with a corresponding time variable.

        c. Hoffman et al (US 20030050845) discloses method and computer

program product are disclosed for a revenue model in a network-based supply

chain management framework. A network is utilized to receive data from a

plurality of stores of a supply chain. A user is allowed to access the data utilizing a network-based interface

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bradley Bayat can be reached on (571) 272-6704. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Romain Jeanty/
 Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3624

April 23, 2011